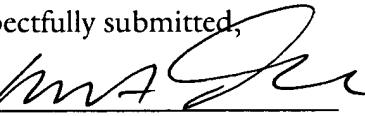


**REMARKS**

Claims 12, 16, 17 and 18 have been amended. Claims 12-18 are now pending. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this and other applications. Favorable action on the application is solicited.

Dated: December 19, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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